

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action mailed April 15, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1, 15, 16, 26, 29, 35 and 36 have been amended. Claims 1-37 are pending.

In paragraph 6 on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Harkins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,513,126).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections, but in the interest of expediting prosecution have amended the claims to more particularly distinguish the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that Harkins et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations recited in Applicants amended claims.

Harkins et al. disclose a method for a user to choose how the user wants to receive data from other users in a network. A user profile is used by a user/receiver to select a modes for receiving data, i.e., hardcopy, facsimile, email, voicemail, etc. When another user sends data to the user, the profile is used to determine how the data is delivered to the user/receiver. However, this is completely different from Applicants invention as recited in the amended claims.

Applicants' invention, as recited in the amended claims, requires a printer to have a plurality of data channels. Priority values are assigned to data channels of the printer that receive print jobs. The priority value assigned to a data channel of the printer is associated with all print jobs received by the printer at that data channel. The print jobs are then printed by the printer in an order corresponding to the priority values of that data channel..

Harkins et al. do not discuss a printer having multiple data channels. Moreover, Harkins et al. do not suggest that the plurality of data channels at a printer are assigned priority values. With regard to any prioritization process, Harkins et al. merely describe prioritizing among the several modes, hardcopy, facsimile, email, voicemail, etc. – not prioritizing data channels at a printer.

Moreover, the Office Action stated that the form or function of the data is immaterial to what the scope of Applicants' invention is. However, Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion. Rather, the form and function of the data is not completely immaterial since a print job received at a particular data channel must include addressing for the receiving data channel or otherwise the particular data channel receiving a print job would be arbitrary. Accordingly, according to Harkins et al. if a user were to create a profile that indicates the user's preferred

mode of receiving data, and that preferred mode happened to be a printing device rather than email or voicemail, for example, then Harkins et al. still fails to enable a print job at a data channel to be selected for printing according to a priority dictated by a priority assigned to that data channel. Thus, Harkins et al. address a completely different issue and solve a completely different problem.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are patentable over Harkins et al.

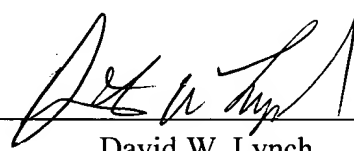
On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Attorney for Applicants, David W. Lynch, at 651-686-6633 Ext. 116.

Respectfully submitted,

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